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TAGS: KS US SOPN
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS ON PAK TONG-SON CASE

1. DECEMBER 29 AND MORNING DECEMBER 30 KOREAN PRESS FIRMLY PREDICTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON PAK CASE ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 30. AFTERNOON PAPERS HEADLINED DELAY, WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED BY SOME SOURCES TO NEW DEMAND BY PAK'S LAWYER, HUNDLEY, FOR CIVIL IMMUNITY FOR PAK. OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER, ATTRIBUTED DELAY TO DISAGREEMENT ON PROCEDURAL DETAILS.

2. IN ANTICIPATION OF ANNOUNCEMENT PRESS PUBLISHED A SPATE OF COMMENTARIES AND EDITORIALS, WHICH STRESSED THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE IN THE PAK CASE. COMMENTARIES ALSO POINTED OUT AREAS WHICH MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE CONTROVERSY, STRESSING CONCERN US WOULD "ENTICE" PAK TO REMAIN AS ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED WITH KIM HYONG-UK AND KIM SANG-KUN.

3. DECEMBER 30 MORNING PRESS FRONTPAGED OP STORY THAT FOLLOWING AGREEMENT THERE WOULD BE MAJOR PUSH TO IMPROVE US-ROK RELATIONS.

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